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SNAPSHOT

Poultry Farm in Eggcellent Hands

USAID transitioned the Bolan Poultry Farm in Hilmand province to a private investor



Robert Sauer/USAID

Dr. Ihsan (far left), the majority owner of the Hilmand Ihsan Poultry Co. and Governor of Hilmand Mangal (left) look on as Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Mohammad Asif Rahimi signs a lease allowing the company to use government-owned land on which the Bolan Poultry Farm is located.

USAID's public-private partnerships assist new private firms, such as Hilmand Ihsan, to significantly boost its capacity and become thriving agents for economic growth.

While many people in southern Afghanistan's Hilmand Province rely on egg and chicken imports from India, Pakistan, and Iran, the population in and around Lashkar Gah, the capital of Hilmand, enjoy high-quality local poultry products. These products come from a state-of-the-art facility recently transitioned from government ownership to a private investor.

In 2007, USAID began developing Hilmand's poultry industry. USAID rehabilitated government-owned facilities at the Bolan Poultry Farm in Lashkar Gah and established an integrated breeder flock, hatchery, and feed mill operation that has produced 385,783 broiler chicks and 665,566 layer chicks, resulting in production and sale of 709,000 kilograms of meat and almost 47 million eggs.

Five distributors, five poultry veterinary clinics, 70 local outlets, and 50 outlets in other districts of Hilmand carry poultry products originating from the farm. At last estimate, affiliated poultry farms were supplying 40 percent of Lashkar Gah's broiler market and 25 percent of its egg market. Local farmers also are enjoying increased demand for grain for use as poultry feed.

USAID's ambition from the outset has been to transfer assets of the Bolan Poultry Farm to the private-sector. In September 2010, the Hilmand Ihsan Poultry Company emerged as the winner of a stringent bidding process to identify the successor organization. USAID implemented a tailored training regimen to ensure the company had the technical and business acumen to assume daily operations.

In May 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock and the Afghanistan Land Authority signed a five-year lease allowing the company to use the land where the farm is located. USAID agreed to transfer ownership of the equipment so the company can operate the Bolan Poultry Farm as an independent, sustainable enterprise.

"This is a wonderful [example] of a joint partnership between government, donor and investor," said Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Mohammad Asif Rahimi at an event celebrating the privatization of the farm.